

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A memory device for use by an electronic appliance, said memory device comprising:

a first data port operatively connectable to said electronic appliance;

a second data port operatively connectable to a remote memory device;

a data storage portion; and

a data allocation device operatively connected to said first data port, said second data port, and said data storage portion;

said data allocation device being adapted to:

allocate a portion of memory within said remote memory device for use by said electronic appliance; and

route data between said first data port, said second data port, and said data storage portion.

Claim 2 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said second data port is operatively connectable to an electronic network that is operatively connected to said remote memory device.

Claim 3 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said data allocation device comprises a computer and a computer-readable medium operatively associated with said computer, said computer-readable medium comprising instructions for controlling said computer and said data allocation device by:

establishing a connection with said remote memory device;

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allocating a portion of memory of said remote memory device for use by said electronic appliance; and
communicating the memory available for use by said electronic appliance to said appliance.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The device of claim 3, wherein said instructions further control said computer by determining whether a connection with said remote memory device can be established, and wherein said establishing a connection comprises establishing a connection with said remote memory device if said connection can be established, and wherein said allocating a portion of memory comprises allocating a portion of memory of said external storage device for use by said electronic appliance if [[s]] said connection with said remote memory device can be established.

Claim 5 (original): The device of claim 3, wherein said instructions further control said computer by:

- receiving data from said first data port;
- determining whether said data received from said first data port is to be stored in said data storage portion or in said remote memory device; and
- routing said data to either said data storage portion or said remote memory device based on said determining.

Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 5, wherein said routing further control said computer by routing said data to said data storage portion if said data is cache data.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 3, wherein said instructions further control said computer by:

- receiving a request for data from said electronic appliance;
- determining the location of said data; and
- routing said data to said electronic appliance.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 3, wherein said instructions further control said computer by continually attempting to establish a connection with said remote memory device.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said electronic appliance is a camera.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein said electronic appliance is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An electronic device comprising:

- a processor; and

- a memory device operatively connectable to said processor;

- said memory device comprising:

- a port operatively connectable to a remote memory device;

- a data storage portion; and

- a data allocation device operatively connected to said port and said data storage portion;

- said data allocation device being adapted to:

- allocate a portion of said remote memory device for use by said processor; and

- route data between said processor, said data storage portion, and said remote memory device, wherein cache data is routed to said data storage portion.

Claim 12 (original): The electronic device of claim 11, wherein said port is operatively connectable to an electronic network that is operatively connected to said remote memory device.

Claim 13 (original): The electronic device of claim 11, wherein said data allocation device comprises a computer and a computer-readable medium operatively associated

with said computer, said computer-readable medium comprising instructions for controlling said computer and said data allocation device by:

establishing a connection with said remote memory device;

allocating a portion of memory of said remote memory device for use by said processor; and

communicating the memory available for use by said processor from said data allocation device to said processor.

Claim 14 (original): The electronic appliance of claim 13, wherein said instructions further control said computer by determining whether a connection with said remote memory device can be established, and wherein said establishing a connection comprises establishing a connection with said remote memory device if said connection can be established, and wherein said allocating a portion of memory comprises allocating a portion of memory of said remote memory device for use by said processor if said connection with said remote memory device can be established.

Claim 15 (original): The electronic device of claim 14, wherein said instructions further control said computer by continually attempting to establish a connection with said remote memory device.

Claim 16 (original) The electronic device of claim 13, wherein said instructions further control said computer by:

receiving data from said processor;

determining whether said data is to be stored in said data storage portion or in said remote memory device; and

routing said data to either said data storage portion or said remote memory device based on said determining.

Claim 17 (original): The electronic device of claim 16, wherein said routing further comprises routing said data to said data storage portion if said data is cache data.

Claim 18 (original): The electronic device of claim 13, wherein said instructions further control said computer by:

- receiving a request for data from said processor;
- determining the location of said data; and
- routing said data from said location to said processor.

Claim 19 (original): The electronic device of claim 11, wherein said memory device is removably, operatively connectable to said processor.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for operating an electronic appliance device, said method comprising:

- establishing a data connection between said electronic appliance device and a memory device, said memory device comprising a data storage portion and a data allocation device;
- establishing a data connection between said memory device and a remote data storage device;
- allocating a portion of memory of said remote data storage device for use by said electronic appliance device;
- transmitting data from said electronic appliance device to said memory device;
- and
- allocating said data to be stored in either said data storage portion or said remote data storage device using said data allocation device.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, and further comprising communicating the amount of memory available from said memory device to said electronic device.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 20 and further comprising continually attempting to establish a data connection between said memory device and said remote memory device.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein said electronic appliance device is a camera.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein said electronic appliance device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 25 (cancelled)